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The Honorable Mike Shirkey
Michigan Senate
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Senator Shirkey:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and student members, I am writing to express our concerns regarding **Senate Bill 68**, which would allow nurse practitioners to practice independent of physician supervision, collaboration, or oversight. We are concerned the changes proposed may undermine the delivery of patient-centered, team-based care in Michigan.

The AMA believes that increased use of teams of multidisciplinary health care professionals will have a positive impact on the nation's primary care needs. This approach includes physicians and other clinicians working together, sharing decisions and information, to achieve improved care, improved patient health and reduced costs.

However, independent practice and team-based care take health care delivery in two very different directions. One approach would further compartmentalize and fragment health care delivery; the other would foster integration and coordination. A review of the data shows that independent practice has not led to increased access to care.

Health care in Michigan is and has been moving toward increased team-based care through programs such as Patient Centered-Medical Homes (PCMH) and Accountable Care Organizations (ACO) in efforts to overhaul the health care system, improve quality and lower costs. For example, a physician-led PCMH organized by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan saved an estimated \$155 million in the first three years of existence while improving quality and preventive care. The AMA looks to these physician-led, team-based models of care—not independent models—as the future of health care.

The AMA thanks you for the opportunity to submit these comments. If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Schleiter, JD, LLM, Senior Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center, at kristin.schleiter@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4783.

Sincerely,

James L. Madara, MD

cc: Michigan State Medical Society